

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for creating a web page in the environment of a word processing software module comprising the steps of:

selecting a template within the word processing software module, the template operable for storing styles;

associating the template with a style group, the style group operable for storing styles that provide a format for creating the web page;

transferring the styles of the template to the style group; and

storing the style group for subsequent use in creating the web page.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of associating the template with a style group comprises the steps of:

accessing a markup language software module;

naming the style group within the markup language software module; and

locating the template associated with the style group from within the markup language software module.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of transferring styles of the template to the style group comprises:

selecting the styles from the template;

defining attributes for the selected styles, the attributes operable for identifying characters used in the web page; and

importing the selected styles into the markup language software module.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining instructions for the style group, the instructions operable for providing information about the web page.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of defining instructions for the style group comprises customizing a file header for storing information about the web page.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of defining instructions for the style group comprises customizing the body of the web page.

7. The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of defining instructions for the style group comprises referencing macros with the style group.

8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

9. A method for creating a markup language document with a word processing software module, the markup language document to be transmitted in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:

- 5 selecting a first template within the word processing software module, the first template operable for storing formatting information;
- associating the first template with a second template for creating the markup language document;
- transferring formatting information from the first template to the second template;
- 10 and
- storing the second template.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of associating the first template with the second template comprises the steps of:

- accessing a markup language software module;
- identifying the second template within the markup language software module; and
- locating the first template that is to be associated with the second template from within the markup language software module.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of transferring formatting information from the first template to the second template comprises:

- selecting formatting information from the first template;
- defining attributes for the selected formatting information, the attributes operable for identifying characters used in the markup language document; and
- 25 importing the selected formatting information into the markup language software module for creating the markup language document.

12. The method of Claim 9, further comprising the step of defining instructions for the second template, the instructions operable for providing information that is not displayed in the markup language document.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of defining instructions for the second template comprises customizing a file header of the markup language document.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of defining instructions for the second template comprises customizing the body of the markup language document.

15. The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of defining instructions for the second template comprises referencing macros with the second template, the macros to be inserted into the markup language document.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in Claim 9.

17. A computer-implemented system for creating markup language documents comprising:

a server computer;

a client coupled to the server computer;

a word processing software module stored on the server computer;

a markup language software module stored on the client, the markup language software module operable for using format information from the word processing software module to create markup language documents; and

a storage device coupled to the server computer, the storage device operable for storing format information.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the markup language software module uses style groups to store format information for the markup language document.

19. The system of Claim 17, wherein the markup language software module uses style groups to store file header information for the markup language document.

20. The system of Claim 17, wherein the markup language software module uses style groups to insert macros into the markup language document.